Above the Falls Health Impact Assessment Assuring Health Equity in Decision Making



Project Background

The City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are in the midst of a planning effort that maximizes public access and use, housing and employment opportunities, livability, and environmental stewardship along the Upper Mississippi Riverfront. The planning area includes over two riverfront miles and the surrounding communities, with residential, commercial, and industrial lands. The current plan, Above the Falls: A Master Plan for the Upper River in Minneapolis

was adopted in 2000. The City and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are now coordinating to revise the plan and to evaluate market and environmental constraints and opportunities. The Above the Falls Health Impact Assessment provides decision-makers with foresight on the health impacts of proposed land use changes and park design choices by conducting health analyses and additional opportunities for community input.

What is a Health Impact Assessment?

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool that communities and decision makers can use to evaluate the potential health effects of a proposed project or policy before it is built or implemented. The HIA process encourages bringing together public input and data relevant to the project or policy in order to make recommendations that maximize potential positive health outcomes while minimizing unintended negative consequences.

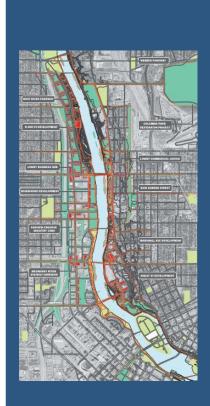
Benefits of HIA

- HIA provides an analysis of health issues in areas where health may not otherwise be considered.
- Community input is integral to the HIA process.
- HIA creates new partnerships between health and other disciplines.
- HIA provides decision –makers with foresight about the effects of their decisions on health of residents.

HOW CAN...

New parks and open space Restored riverbank and habitat New bicycle and pedestrian trails Business and housing development

...IMPROVE HEALTH?



Significant changes to land use along the Mississippi River are proposed.

Project Partners

Minneapolis Deportment of Health and Family Support

Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Minneapolis Riverfront **Partnership**

Above the Falls Citizen **Advisory Committee**

Project Sponsorship

This project is supported by a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, with funding from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation.

City of Minneapolis

Department of Health and Family Support 250 South 4th Street, Rm 510 Minneapolis, MN 55415 www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/

Coordination through Partnership

The project is a collaborative effort between City and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board planners, health department staff, and the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership. The project exists in tandem with the Policy and Implementation Study and RiverFIRST planning efforts, and will provide recommendations to the Above the Falls Plan modification. The Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee is the advisory committee for the Health Impact Assessment process.



Community Engagement

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will continue to engage key stakeholders who previously have been involved in the Above the Falls (ATF) and RiverFIRST planning processes. The project team will build upon previous stakeholder engagement efforts by attempting to identify gaps and intentionally reach out to those groups that previously may not have been engaged sufficiently but who have a clear stake in the redevelopment of the Minneapolis upper riverfront.

Based on review of the ATF and RiverFIRST plans, staff determined stakeholder and community engagement for the Health Impact Assessment should:

> Continue to engage a diverse group of stakeholders and more intentionally engage residents

- and decision makers representing specific racial and ethnic groups.
- Coordinate future engagement activities among the project partners
- Define the purpose for engaging specific stakeholders and tie the engagement to a tangible component or decision to be made about the plan.
- Take a multifaceted approach to stakeholder engagement innovating upon strategies used in the previous processes.
- Clearly make connections between plan components and how they affect health outcomes and make these connections central to community engagement efforts.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative: RiverFIRST http://minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com/

City of Minneapolis

Above the Falls Policy Review and Implementation Study

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cped above the falls

Health Impact Assessment Project Contacts

Dave Johnson (612) 673-3948

<u>David.johnson@minneapolismn.gov</u>

Jared Erdmann (612) 673-2638